

CMD, only the posts of CMD, WCL and CMD, MCL have to be filled up on substantive basis.

The ACC has taken a decision in respect of WCL. Issue of orders is held up because of on going litigation in the Delhi High Court.

For MCL, recommendations of the PESB were received in December, 2000. Vigilance clearance was received last month. The matter is now being referred to the ACC.

Restructuring and Liberalising Coal Sector

4264. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for restructuring and liberalising the coal sector in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have received a number of representation and petitions in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating *inter-alia* the reasons therefor;

(d) whether liberalisation and restructuring of coal sector would necessitate amendments to the existing Coal Mines Nationalisation Act;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by when amending Bill is likely to be brought forward before Parliament in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Representations have been received from some trade union organisations opposing the opening up of the various areas of national economy, including coal, to the private sector. The All India Workers' Federation, a trade union organisation affiliated to CITU, went on strike from 20th November, 2000 to 22nd November, 2000 in support of number of demands which included opposition to the private sector's entry in coal mining. Some of reasons for opposition

to liberalization are apprehensions of lack of job security for workers, exploitation of labour and unscientific exploitation of coal with inadequate safety measures in coal mining in private hand.

(d) to (f) The Central Government has taken decisions (i) to allow Indian Companies to mine coal lignite without the existing restriction of captive consumption and (ii) to engage the Indian Companies in exploration of coal and lignite resources in the country, subject to legislative changes. In order to implement the decision the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 is required to be amended. Therefore the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 have been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 24.4.2000.

VRS in Coal Companies

4265. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the coal companies that have introduced Voluntary Retirement Schemes during the last three years;

(b) the number of employees in various coal companies who have taken voluntary retirement in these years; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) During the last three years all the coal producing companies which are subsidiaries of Coal India Limited have introduced Voluntary Retirement Schemes.

(b) and (c) During last three years a total number of 29,733 employees have availed of Voluntary Retirement Scheme. The company-wise details of the number of employees separated under VRS are given hereunder:

Company	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	Total for three years
1	2	3	4	5
Eastern Coalfields Limited	4,880	4,406	2,496	11,782
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	4,088	3,590	2,496	10,174
Central Coalfields Limited	504	1,820	1,046	3,370